

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-4, 6-9, 12-24, and 29-32 are all the claims presently pending in the application. Claims 10 and 11 are canceled to expedite prosecution by incorporating their contents into independent claim 1 and into claim 29. Claims 25 and 26 are withdrawn, but claim 25 has been amended to be in a condition that these claims can now be rejoined.

It is noted that Applicants specifically state that no amendment to any claim herein should be construed as a disclaimer of any interest in or right to an equivalent of any element or feature of the amended claim.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication that claims 23 and 24 are allowed, and that claims 6, 11, 14, 18, 21, and 22 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Although Applicants maintain that Horiuchi fails to anticipate the various claims identified by the Examiner in the rejection and that Grellmann is not properly combinable with Horiuchi, in an attempt to expedite prosecution, Applicants have accordingly incorporated the allowable subject matter of claim 11 into rejected independent claims 1 and 29, as well as withdrawn independent claim 25.

Claims 1-3, 7, 9, 12, and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,084,295 to Horiuchi et al. Claims 1-4, 7, 9, 10, 12, 16, 19, and 19-32 stand under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,686,492 to Grellmann et al., further in view of Horiuchi.

Claim 8 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Horiuchi, further in view of US Patent Publication US 2004/0182911A1 to Chia et al. Claim 10 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Horiuchi (or Grellmann), further in view of US Patent 3,840,169 to Steranko et al.

Claim 13 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Horiuchi (or Grellmann), further in view of US Patent Publication US 2001/00154900A1 to Lee.

Claims 15 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Horiuchi (or Grellmann), further in view of Notani. Claim 20 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Horiuchi (or Grellmann), further in view of US Patent 4,555,052 to Kurtz et al. Claims 31 and 32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Horiuchi, further in view of Grellmann.

Applicants believe that the claim amendments above render these rejections moot, since allowable subject matter of claim 11 has been appropriately incorporated into the rejected independent claims.

## **FORMAL MATTERS AND CONCLUSION**

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that claims 1-4, 6-9, 12-24, and 29-32, all the claims presently being examined in the application, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance and that withdrawn claim 25 and 26 are in condition for rejoinder, which rejoinder is now respectfully requested.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue at the earliest possible time.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in fees or to credit any overpayment in fees to Assignee's Deposit Account No. 50-0510.

Respectfully Submitted,



Date: April 11, 2007

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## **CERTIFICATION OF TRANSMISSION**

I certify that I transmitted via EFS this Amendment under 37 CFR §1.111 to the USPTO on April 11, 2007.



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